MEMORIAL

OF

JOHN C. DALTON, M. D.

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A

MEMORIAL

OF

JOHN C. DALTON, M. D.

AN ADDRESS

Delivered before the Middlesex North District Medical Society,

April 27, 1864,

BY

JOHN O. GREEN, M. D.
LOWELL

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Lowell, April 27, 1864.

JOHN O. GREEN, M. D.

Dear Sir, —

The undersigned, a committee appointed for that purpose, would, in behalf of the members of the Middlesex North District Medical Society, express to you their sincere thanks for your able and appropriate address on the life and character of their late associate, Dr. John C. Dalton, delivered before them this day; and would respectfully ask you for a copy of the same for publication.

Very respectfully yours,

CHARLES A. SAVORY,
J. P. JEWETT,
GEO. H. WHITMORE.

Lowell, April 30, 1864.

Gentlemen, —

I comply with your request, waiving all personal feelings of reluctance, from the same consideration which prompted me to deliver it, namely, that a tribute was due to the character and services of the departed, however humble and imperfect my qualifications, and partial the judgment of the friends who conferred the appointment upon me.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN O. GREEN.

To CHARLES A. SAVORY, M. D.,
J. P. JEWETT, M. D.,
GEO. H. WHITMORE, M. D., } *Committee.*

In accordance with arrangements previously made under the direction of the Middlesex North District Medical Society, for an address with appropriate services in respect to the memory of their late venerable associate, Dr. John C. Dalton, the fellows of the Society, together with a large number of the citizens of Lowell, — friends and acquaintances of the deceased, — assembled in Mechanics' Hall, on the 27th of April, 1864, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Order of Exercises was as follows: —

I. The Dirge, "Rest, Spirit, rest," by the Choir.

II. Prayer by Rev. F. Hinckley.

III. Introduction of the Orator, Dr. J. O. Green, to the audience, by the President, Dr. J. C. Bartlett, in the following terms: —

"Ladies and Gentlemen, —

"It is an important and fundamental law of human progress, that 'the good which a man does shall live after him,' and it is in consequence of the innate love of goodness which exists in the human heart, that the Middlesex North District Medical Society has invited you to unite with us in commemorating the good traits in the character of our late brother and your esteemed friend, the late Dr. John C. Dalton.

"I have the pleasure to introduce to you, as the exponent of the feelings of the Medical Society, your respected fellow-citizen, Dr. John O. Green."

IV. Address by Dr. J. O. Green.

V. Funeral Hymn by Choir.

VI. Benediction.

ADDRESS.

MEDICAL men are divided into two chief classes: those who are eminently *practical* in their professional associations, tastes, and pursuits, and those who are mainly devoted to theoretical labors and studies, and regulate their practice by the simple operations of the intellect and imagination. The various grades intervening between these two general classes it is unnecessary to enumerate or define; but there are few who may not be fairly embraced under one of them, from a visible preponderance of his professional peculiarities or predilections.

The ancient sentiment of Truth between the two extremes is no less emphatic and imperative now than formerly. An admirable model of professional excellence will combine theory and experience. So ingenious and plausible, however, are the teachings of the one, that our medical journals and libraries are teeming with them. But the disclosures of experience and diligent observation are much less punctually recorded and promulgated; yet, contrasting the extremes of multiplied theories and simple experience, it cannot fail to happen that a wise preference must be given to the latter.

There is no danger of too much experience. Medical science is pre-eminently *practical*. The crises and

dilemmas in which the practitioner is required to muster his resources are not such as to allow delay or foster speculation. The diseases and agonies of the body are real ills, and by the sufferer himself painfully recognized as such. The fruits of experience only are prolific of relief in their application to present issues. There is nothing more salutary in its influence on the mind of the patient than the active impressions which a lofty practical discernment on the part of the physician is certain to produce. It immeasurably enhances both the success and the reputation of the practitioner. It furnishes him an indescribable gratification in cases of weighty responsibility and singular complication.

That such signal superiority in the career of medical practice can be attained by supineness or accident need not for a moment be imagined. It can only be the reward of sterling probity, unwearied assiduity, and lifelong patience. It must be achieved by careful observation of insignificant details, by diligent comparison of examples, by the indefatigable love of research, and by a constant attention to the doctrines of experience which older and discreeter minds have accumulated.

The brief and unadorned instructions of toil-hardened men also, — of such as have, through a long and busy life, battled with prejudice and discouragement, — these are worthy to be reserved in the minds of their successors, and reproduced in the excitement of unforeseen exigency, and amid the doubts of conflicting counsel and serious apprehension. The *practical* thinker sees no emergency so desperate as not to permit the exercise of some competent philosophy, or the employment of some fit expedient, which, if

inadequate to secure convalescence, may be at least regarded in the retrospect as the dictate of cautious prudence or enlightened deliberation.

At the close of the long, most busy, and most useful professional life of our deceased associate, Gentlemen, you cannot hesitate as to which of the two classes which I have described he belonged, and eminently adorned. He was a man of earnestly *practical* habits and aspirations. Such were his aims, his training, and his rewards. Like many other honored members of our profession, too, he has left scarcely a single record of his ample experience. One of his intimate friends writes me, that his efforts to gather some information respecting his life and history have resulted in the knowledge of no facts other than those known to all who came in contact with him in the daily routine of professional and social life. His course differed, probably, little from that of every true, honest, upright, honorable, faithful medical man: presenting in its unambitious pursuits few incidents other than a long-life series of kind actions and deeds of mercy to be known and appreciated only by those upon whom they were generously conferred.

On the 17th of April, 1857, at the solicitation of his class secretary, Dr. Dalton furnished to him an autobiographical letter, containing the controlling events of his life, from which I desire freely to quote.

"I was born in the town, now city, of Boston, May 31, 1795. From a private school in a sunny upper-room in Spring Lane I was in due time transferred to the public schools, which, in our district, were then, and for many years after, kept by Masters Snelling and Haskell.

"In the spring of 1807, being then twelve years of age, I was supposed, by the aid of this and other means, to have been sufficiently indoctrinated in the elements to justify promotion to a higher sphere; and it having been decided about this time that I should 'go to college,' I was put under the care of Dr. Luther Stearns, Principal of Medford Academy, then at the height of its celebrity, with whom I remained until, with the sixty-two afterward constituting our class, I entered Harvard in 1810. Among the distinguished men of this class were James Walker, William H. Prescott, F. W. P. Greenwood, and Pliny Merrick.

"Here forming," he says, "many friendships which time has served only to confirm and strengthen, and which have bestrewed the path of my after-life with roses."

The four years of college life were filled with conscientious and industrious effort. Among other distinctions, in his Senior year he wrote for the Bowdoin Prize. The subject was some question of politics; "for I remember," says his college chum, "he took out of the Library 'Sidney on Government,' in reference to it. I also thought of writing at the same time, but had not perseverance enough, and did not do it. When he won the prize, he laid out a part of it in a book which he gave me, — 'Johnson's Lives of the Poets.' I have it still. I believe he did it to soften my mortification."

"Graduating in 1814, and not having yet decided upon a profession, I accepted from my former instructor an ushership in his Academy, having had some little experience in the honorable calling of ped-

agogue, as teacher of a district school in the town of Groton during the winter vacation of our Senior year. Retaining this position one entire year, I entered my name, in the fall of 1815, as student of medicine in the office of Dr. Josiah Bartlett of Charlestown, attended two regular courses of Medical Lectures in Boston, and a third one during the winter of 1817–18, in the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, where I enjoyed the privilege of instruction from the master minds of such men as Caspar Wistar, Philip Syng Physic, John Syng Dorsey, Nathaniel Chapman, and James Dewees, having the melancholy distinction, as a member of the class from Massachusetts, of officiating as pall-bearer at the funeral of the last named, who died before the expiration of the course."

His medical degree was from Cambridge, in August, 1818. The subject of his thesis was Dysentery, Dr. Samuel L. Dana of this city receiving his degree at the same time.

In the spring of 1818, he accepted the invitation of Dr. Rufus Wyman of Chelmsford to succeed him at that place, he having been recently elected to the Superintendency of the McLean Asylum, then just established at Charlestown, now Somerville. At a public meeting of the citizens assembled upon the occasion of the contemplated removal of their beloved physician, — than whom no one ever enjoyed more fully and generally the confidence of the whole community, — it was voted to request him to select a successor; and a pledge was given to receive and adopt the person whom he should recommend. With characteristic sagacity, he invited Dr. Dalton, then

in his twenty-third year, and his medical studies scarcely completed. No recommendation could have been more desirable and essential to success, and no appointment could have been more satisfactory and fortunate in its results to all parties.

The culture of his years of study was now to show its fruits. He entered at once upon the labors and responsibilities of country practice. Self-sacrificing and wearing as is the toil, self-denying and absorbing as are its duties, the training gives firmness and ripeness to the forming medical character, cultivates self-reliance, develops ingenuity in adapting means to ends, and calls for all the attributes of practical earnestness and sound judgment.

In the early part of his career at Chelmsford, at almost the beginning of professional life, occurred the case which illustrates the power of the circumstances which were forming the character of our deceased friend.

Mr. S——, aged seventy-eight years, a hardy yeoman from one of the hilly districts of New England, when more than one hundred miles from home, upset his two-horse wagon in Chelmsford, fell on his hip and could not get up. He was carried into a house and was visited by Dr. Dalton, who, after a cautious examination, pronounced the case to be one of fracture of the neck of the thigh-bone, and proceeded to apply a modification of Dessault's long splint. In four or five days the patient became so restive under this confinement among strangers that he employed a carpenter to prepare him a box which should receive a bed, together with himself and splint, with a view to return home. When the Doctor heard of this,

he remonstrated, with no small degree of emphasis, against the project, but without avail; the old man said he might as well die one way as another, and home he would go. When the box was ready, he was wagoned home, and was carried forty miles on the last day of his journey.

Eighteen days after the injury, a distinguished surgical professor from Hanover was called to him. The patient made a somewhat singular appearance lying in his box, which, to accommodate himself and splint, he being over six feet high, was not much less than ten feet in length. The Professor gave it as his opinion that the bone was *not fractured*, removed the splint, and had the patient got up daily. In a subsequent lecture, he described the case, and dwelt upon the importance that a physician should be very cautious to avoid hasty opinions in surgical cases. Soon after this, Dr. Dalton wrote to the Professor, expressing his surprise at the opinion which he understood he had given, and stating that on his first visit to the patient he found the limb everted and shortened more than an inch, and also detected crepitus.

Between two and three years after this, he died of an acute attack of visceral disease. Our friend heard of this, went to the place of his death, and requested that the body might be disinterred. His request was granted. The bone showed every mark of fracture, and constitutes now a most interesting specimen of that peculiar accident. Our friend immediately wrote to the Professor, stating the result, and closed with saying it *was* very important in such cases to avoid a hasty diagnosis.

On the 23d day of April, 1822, the present speaker came to Chelmsford, subsequently East Chelmsford, now Lowell, and on the 24th began his acquaintance with Dr. Dalton, which, ripening into a personal and professional friendship, was never interrupted until his death, more than forty years afterward.

It is perhaps all but unavoidable, amid the conflicting interests and competitions of our profession, that misunderstandings and alienations will occur. This is a danger most likely to happen, and has oftenest happened to men of strong and original minds. In the wide influence which such men exert, in the popular influence which sustains them, in the self-consciousness of strength, and the lurking idea of unjust and jealous treatment, the necessity and beauty, not to say positive advantage, of harmony between two neighbors in our profession, is too often overlooked.

With opinions and judgments formed with so much deliberation, and such earnest convictions as Dr. Dalton's, it were too much to look for a calm acquiescence in views which ran counter to these opinions. His position once taken, would be defended with earnestness, bordering on warmth, but never on rudeness. The gentleman always prevailed over the impulses of a warm temperament and excited manner. With his clear powers of discrimination, he could be just to himself, and yet not oppressive to others.

In 1822, Dr. Dalton married the daughter of Deacon Noah Spalding of Chelmsford. She became the mother of eight children, five only of whom survive. She died in 1846. She was a lady of singular sweetness of disposition and manners, the memory of

whose many virtues is still fresh in the minds of several within the reach of my voice.

The thirteen years of his life in Chelmsford were years of constantly increasing toil, responsibility, and usefulness. Succeeding to a gentleman of great popularity and acceptance to a scattered agricultural population, yet more than ordinarily distinguished for general intelligence, he entered at once on a successful professional career, for which he had many of the highest qualifications, and through life retained many of those patrons who sought his counsel in his earliest years.

During the last ten years of his residence in Chelmsford, he lived to see rising up within the limits of his daily rides the germ of another town and city, destined speedily and certainly to overshadow all its neighbors. Within less than four miles from his home, a young and rapidly-growing population was concentrating. The bustling activity and enterprise of the new were in strange contrast to the staid movements of the old town. The beginning of the town thus made was but the promise of the populous city which was to be. Professional men were hastening to the spot, attracted by the sure prospect of a demand for their services, and to place themselves in readiness to share its success. Dr. Dalton was frequently called in consultation, and was forming new friendships and business relations among our new population. In the autumn of 1831, he removed to Lowell, much to the regret of his Chelmsford friends; but, as time has fully proved, to commence here a career of greatly extended practice, usefulness, and honor.

Lowell then numbered a population of eight thousand. Of the fifteen physicians then resident here, but four remain.

And now, Gentlemen, that I have traced him to the point where for twenty-eight years he was our daily associate, how inadequate do I feel to perform this grateful duty in a style and manner I could regard as worthy his character and befitting its merits! How unequal to portray the varied attributes of character which gave life and joyous animation to the social circle; that made him the beloved physician, inspiring confidence in illness and dispelling the gloom of the sick-chamber; that rendered him a most acceptable counsellor in our doubts and anxieties, and called forth the universal respect of the profession! How easy for his friends to recall his ever-welcome presence! On his expanded forehead no one could fail to trace the impress of a large and calm intelligence. In his beaming smile, none could help feeling the warmth of a heart which was the seat of all generous and kindly affections; while his closed mouth and rigid muscle around it gave equal evidence of his firm purpose and indomitable energy of will.

As he came here no stranger, with singular qualifications of mind and heart, with an ample experience and training, in the prime of life and vigor, he at once entered upon, and constantly retained, a large and lucrative practice, and among the best and most discriminating portion of our population.

Medicine is a jealous calling. It brooks no divided affection and half-way devotion, and bestows its honors only on such as continue to be its constant votaries.

Years ago, a friend residing in his family told me "the Doctor never tired of his duties." With the exception of a short visit to Europe, he was seldom absent, and night and day was ready for his life-long service.

In his Autobiography he says, "Unambitious of either civil or political distinction, I have sedulously and almost exclusively devoted myself to the study and practice of my profession, avoiding office or other employment demanding any great amount of time or thought, from a conviction that the diversion of any considerable portion of these by a physician from the legitimate duties of his calling would be a virtual violation of his pledge, either actual or implied, to those relying upon his judgment, skill, and science. A mind distracted with politics, or with the ever-recurring duties of responsible civil office, must frequently find itself in a very unfit state to analyze a complicated and perhaps obscure case of disease, and requiring after such analysis, wise and cautious discrimination in the selection and adaptation of the appropriate remedy."

The reward of his devotion was rich in the confidence bestowed upon him during his residence among us, and most touching was it to see the spontaneous testimony of respect to his memory in the long train of citizens of all classes who followed his body to the grave. He had an ardent love for the medical profession, a high appreciation of its power of doing good. He suffered no opportunity to pass of making himself acquainted with every improvement in medical science, of confirming every doubtful point in pathology, of exhibiting to others in

the profession everything of especial interest and importance in his own practice; in this, as in every act of his life, evincing his thirst for knowledge, not for his own aggrandizement, but for the benefit of others. I need but to allude to his interest in this Society, his fidelity to its highest offices, as President for several years, as Councillor of the Massachusetts Medical Society, often on its more important committees, as Member of the American Medical Association, often present at its meetings in distant cities, and honored by its high trusts.

And yet the greatest triumphs of these long years of faithful toil are locked up in the hearts of weary and patient sufferers in the solitude of their sick-chambers, and evinced only in the tears which have been so often dried by his kindly ministrations and cheerful presence.

Besides his professional traits, which made him so useful to all, his moral character was one of great strength and purity. He had an inbred sense of honor, an entire removal from all meanness, a sterling integrity, a keen sense of love of right, qualifying and inspiring all his every-day life, which gave him power of personal influence, while it made him of inestimable worth as a friend. He had a courteous, dignified bearing, a disposition naturally quick, but by self-culture subdued to an almost unvarying evenness.

In his friendships, how unselfish! He delighted in surprising his friends with acts of generous confidence. I cannot forget, although I ought not perhaps so publicly to allude to it, the surprise which awaited me on coming home late on the 31st of De-

cember, 1839, to find on my study-table, as a New-Year's gift from Dr. Dalton, a folio edition of Boydell's Shakespeare, in calf and gilt, a memento, perhaps, of some slight personal service I had had the happiness to render in his family during the year then closing, wholly forgotten by myself, but never by him. How touchingly characteristic, too, the fact that the errand which called him from his home, on the night of his fatal accident, was to purchase the Life of his classmate, Prescott, then newly published, to send to another classmate in a distant State.

As a citizen, we owe him much. As an efficient and judicious Alderman, he acted two years, averse as he was to all public office. He was always ready to contribute of time or money to any enterprise undertaken to benefit our rising city. Our Mechanic Association, the Mission Schools, the Ministry at Large, all testify to the generous gifts and sacrifices made in their behalf, and the last words spoken so touchingly to his numerous friends around his open grave were, *He was the friend of the poor.*

At the end of twenty-eight years of busy usefulness in this community, of course constantly changing its population, yet never ceasing to use and appreciate his services, in the enjoyment of health and vigor little impaired by age, in 1859 he removed to Boston, under circumstances among his family relations there particularly inviting and grateful to him, and having in the winter of 1851 married a most estimable lady, the excellent daughter of the late Hon. John Phillips of Andover.

These five last years, as they proved, in his native

city and among his family, seem to have been the crowning beauty of his life. After his return to Boston, he had trials to endure in the deaths, within a few years, of his three elder brothers, whose society was certainly one of the inducements to change his residence. A more permanent source of care and anxiety existed in the case of a sister afflicted with hopeless infirmity of body and mind. For nearly five years he watched over her, an inmate of the same house, omitting no care, no sacrifice of personal ease and pleasure to administer to her relief. Her death occurred a few months before his own.

"Having been for nearly forty years absent from his native place," says a friend, "he found himself, on his return, to some degree a stranger there. But every month that passed away contributed to widen the circle of his friends and to raise him higher in the opinion of the community which he had lately joined. His brothers in the profession at once joyfully admitted him to a place among their honored members, and medical trusts of dignity and importance were eagerly placed in his hands, especially those for which he was always ready, where the only reward was that of a consciousness of usefulness. He was appointed a member of the State Medical Commission for the examination of surgeons, in the place of the late Dr. Hayward, and was elected Senior Physician of the new City Hospital a few weeks only before his death.

Withdrawing as much as possible from practice, except among his old friends, and relieved entirely from the drudgery and necessity of daily work, he never for a moment lost his interest in his profes-

sion. He was punctually present at the meetings of the medical societies, at the infirmaries and hospitals, at the public institutions, charitable, social, or literary, and active in everything that concerned the welfare of the city and the promotion of order and good morals. A good share of his time was devoted to the society of his friends and the *repair* of his old friendships, a touching instance of which was in a kind letter to a medical friend in this city, full of warm sympathy and true Christian spirit, then suffering severe affliction under the loss of a most estimable son.

Dr. Dalton loved his country and deeply felt the severity of its fiery trial; and, faithful as always to his convictions of right and personal obligation, he gave his abounding labors in the Sanitary Commission and every other department which opened an opportunity for the free-will offerings of his heart. All four of his sons were at one time in the service of the country, — two of them in the medical, one in civil, and one in the military department. Three of them continue so at the present time.

In a recent address of Governor Andrew, he eulogized the patriotic zeal of Dr. Dalton, which prompted him, when accidentally present on the arrival of two hundred wounded men in the steamer "Daniel Webster," in Boston, to offer his services to the Surgeon-General; and he actually rode up State Street in an open ambulance at the head of the column on its way to the hospital, while many a young man has turned away in disgust from the service, because he disliked his assigned position at some capital operation.

In his occasional visits to Lowell, on professional

or social duty, it was delightful to his friends to mark his cheerful and happy expression. A great advantage of our profession, says Dr. Knight, and one which contributes largely to the happiness of the physician, is, that it compels him to possess or assume cheerfulness of disposition, kindness of demeanor, and a readiness to perform acts of beneficence. These constitute no inconsiderable portion of his stock in trade, and without a liberal share of them he will soon become bankrupt. He must be kind to his patients, considerate of their feelings, patient of their complaints, though they may often seem to be unreasonable, and ready to afford to them consolation and relief. He must, therefore, cultivate these feelings until they become a part of his very constitution. He who commences a course of this kind, from the necessity of his position, will soon learn to continue it from the love of it. This inworking of the kind feelings which he is so often called upon to express and to experience is so effective, that it is rare to find a physician advanced in life who is other than a cheerful, social, and benevolent man. And the influence of this state upon his own happiness can hardly be over-estimated. It is a law of nature as definite and as operative as the law of gravitation in its effects upon material bodies, that to do good to others is to gain it for ourselves, and that our own happiness is very nearly in proportion to the active exertions which are made to promote the happiness of our fellow-men.

Dr. Dalton was a firm believer in Christianity. Accustomed to the constant expression of their most intimate feelings in words, there are those who lose

sight of the fact that there is a religion, no less pure than their own, which shrinks from such constant assertion of itself, and which is satisfied to *do* justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

He says: "My life has been emphatically a happy one. Not free, of course, from the natural vicissitudes. Although neither a Swedenborgian nor a Spiritualist, I enjoy communion with near and dear friends, who from time to time have gone to enjoy the nearer presence of their Creator. When occasionally, either through my own indiscreetness or the unreliability of others, pecuniary losses have been sustained, my equanimity has remained undisturbed, since the moral profit and pleasure incident to acquisition ever remains beyond the reach of chance.

"I have never had a moment's misgiving in relation to the immortality of the soul aside from revelation; for if, as my philosophy assures me, it is not possible that any particle of created matter should ever be annihilated, the soul, one and indivisible, must have an eternal existence.

"No believer in creeds, as such, I have a firm faith in the word of God. And although I believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet, having the same firm faith in the Unity of God as in his word, and in the subordination to him of all other Intelligences, I cannot give my assent to the so-called doctrine of the Trinity, as, after anxious inquiry, I have ever yet heard it explained.

"Nor can I adopt that other dogma which asserts the original total depravity of man's nature; for, besides my assurance, that it is the work of an infinitely benevolent Supreme Almighty Being, I cannot rec-

oncile the proposition to those precious words which have brought such consolation, since their utterance, to so many millions of mothers in their hours of bereavement, of Him who loved little children, who said, 'Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven.' And yet how painfully am I experimentally conscious of my nature's many acquired and acquiesced in sins and infirmities: my entire life has been a conflict with more than one of these perverse tendencies, and to my shame I acknowledge that the victory has not even yet been my own; but the repulsed, yet hopeful, enemy yet returns again and again to the siege, and may yet accomplish his design. Frail, therefore, and imperfect, and devoid of all merit in myself, I yet willingly and hopefully trust myself in life and in death to the mercy, justice, and goodness of Him whom his Son, my Saviour, (if I will permit him to be such,) has justified us in addressing as Our Father who art in Heaven, and whom he addressed as 'His Father and our Father,' 'His God and our God.'

"I do not hope to escape the penalty of a single sin which I may have committed; but I do not believe it will be arbitrarily administered. As fire burns or water drowns, so by the immutable law of God does sin scar and mar and depreciate the soul,—'the soul that sinneth, it shall surely die'; that is, shall be scarred and marred and depreciated, and that in perfect proportion to its amount of guilt; and I believe the penalty will be remedial, and therefore I dare not state the amount of sinfulness which should make the errant soul despair

of final restoration to that state constituting heaven. True Religion seems to me to consist in the steady love of God's truth, and in the persevering cultivation of obedience to those eternal principles of justice which shall make wrong-doing impossible, and that carried out into the minutest concerns of life; and I do not believe that there can be any merit in well-doing which rests on a less stable foundation.

"At your request," he says, "I have given you some sketch of my life and experience, the upshot of which is, that I was born, have lived, and, as I trust, shall be willing, in God's own time, with becoming submission to relinquish the life that was His gift; death, since it is one of His wise ordinations, having no terrors for me, as much as I ever have, and continue still to enjoy, life."

Such was his own humble estimate of his life-long services; such was the faith which had prompted and strengthened him in their performance, and which was soon to be brought to its final test and fulfilment. In less than seven years after he penned those lines, by a sudden accident he was placed upon his death-bed.

He had nearly reached his threescore years and ten. The important mission imposed upon him he had successfully carried out. The duties he was charged with he had conscientiously fulfilled. His work was done, — done nobly, done hopefully.

The short week remaining to him was filled with the assiduous attentions of his devoted family and his professional friends. His religious faith shed a serene light over the closing scene, which was in keep-

ing with the general tenor of his life, — calm, trustful, and happy.

His last hours were hours of sweet peace. His last words were brave words of Christian counsel to his children and near friends. All who witnessed those hours and heard those words must have recognized the broad foundation on which his character was moulded, and the Source, something surely higher than earth, of his true, noble life.

When the young die, we mourn for the hopes which have faded like the flowers on their bier; when the places of the old know them no more forever, we mourn that the tree which has long sheltered us, and, perchance, been a landmark for the wandering, has fallen from its station; but when Death smites the vine which was still giving us nourishment with its fruit and refreshment with its shade, how sadly tender is the memory of its fragrant blossoms! how mournful and desolate seems the future, of whose riches it had offered so liberal a pledge!

Such was our departed friend. His nature, his culture, his earlier and maturer fruits, combined to make his life a blessing to those who partook of his gifts or dwelt within his shadow.

He died in Boston, January 9, 1864, aged 68 years, 7 months.

"A firm, yet cautious mind;
Sincere, though prudent; constant, yet resigned;
Honor unchanged, a principle profest;
Fixed to one side, yet moderate to the rest;
Filled with the sense of age, the fire of youth;
A scorn of wrangling, yet a zeal for truth;
A generous faith, from superstition free;
A love for peace and hate to tyranny:
Such this man was."

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

At a meeting of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, Dr. Warren gave the following account of the illness and death of the late Dr. John C. Dalton, the valuable and distinguished physician whose case has excited so much interest both among the medical profession and the public generally: —

On Saturday evening, January 2d, Dr. Dalton slipped on the ice near his own house, falling upon a piece of iron, the model of a cannon, about six inches long and one inch in diameter, which he had in his pocket, and which was forcibly driven against his left side. He went home and lay upon the sofa until bedtime, complaining of general uneasiness, and expressing the feeling that he had received some ill-defined injury.

In the middle of the night he was attacked with violent pain in the left hypochondriac region, extending thence over the whole abdomen. He sent for Dr. Edward H. Clarke, under whose charge he remained during his illness. At this time he expressed the fear that he was suffering from intussus ception of the intestine. Large doses of opium were given without material relief, after which ether was administered by inhalation, and the effect of it was kept up during the greatei part of thirty-six hours. He was seen on Sunday afternoon by Dr. Warren, who continued in attendance with Dr. Clarke, from day to day during the remainder of his illness. After a very critical examination, no positive evidence could be discovered of injury to any internal organs. The bowels had been thoroughly evacuated by an enema immediately after the

first visit of Dr. Clarke. He had passed no urine, nor was there any sign of any collection in the bladder. At his own request, however, a catheter was passed into the Urethra, but it was arrested at the neck of the bladder by spasm, and no farther effort was made. The absence of the secretion was attributed in part to the great quantity of opium which he had taken, together with the ether which he had inhaled during so many hours, and which was attended by profuse perspiration. The stomach having become tranquillized after the etherization was stopped, and some hot drink administered, warm applications being at the same time made over the pubes, micturition took place spontaneously, no abnormal appearance being shown by the urine, or in the urinary organs, during the remainder of his illness.

There had been at first sight marks of contusion on the abdomen and lower part of the chest, which, however, soon disappeared. In the hypochondriac region, for the first day or two, there was an induration of limited extent, which appeared, however, to be due as much to an instinctive action of the muscles to resist pressure as to any internal injury caused by the contusion. There was more dulness in the left lumbar region than in the corresponding region in the right side, and this dulness gradually increased in extent as the case proceeded. The respiration was perfectly normal in the very lower part of the chest, where the injury was received. There was no tenderness on pressure when Dr. Warren saw him, either in the chest or abdomen, although this symptom had been previously noticed; and, from the general absence of decided symptoms in the regions noticed, it was surmised that there might be an injury of the spleen with some effusion of blood. On Monday his symptoms seemed to be of a favorable character; on Tuesday morning there was decided evidence of pneumonia in the lower part of the left lung, which gradually increased, involving more or less of both lungs, until death ensued on Friday, at 4 o'clock, P. M. Dr. Dalton had complete possession of his senses until within a short period of his death, and arranged all his affairs with coolness and deliberation.

There has been a remarkable mortality in the family of Dr. Dalton within a short time, three of his brothers and two sisters having died within the past five years, most of them suddenly; and it is worthy of mention that one of his brothers, who received a fall on the ice, somewhat like his own, was seized, after a few days, with double pneumonia, which terminated fatally.

The following account of the autopsy is furnished by Dr. Ellis: —

There was extensive pneumonia, involving both lungs, the left lower lobe being gray, the corresponding part of the right still red. The lower part of the upper right lobe was similarly affected, and the whole of the left highly œdematous.

A small amount of blood was seen upon the peritoneal surface on opening the abdominal cavity, but the subperitoneal tissue was extensively infiltrated with the same, which extended into the meso-colon, omentum, and other folds. Around the left kidney was a large, blackish coagulum, and in the hilus a transverse fracture, perhaps an inch long and a third of an inch in depth at the deepest part. To this the coagulum adhered firmly.

Both kidneys were large and quite soft. On examining a portion with the microscope, the tubuli were found crowded with granular epithelium, so that all appearance of a tube was lost.

The spleen was small and quite soft.

The liver was of a pale-red color, but in other respects normal.

FROM THE LOWELL "COURIER," JANUARY 11, 1864.

At a meeting of a number of the friends of the late Dr. J. C. Dalton, held at the Railroad Bank, this morning, S. W. Stickney, Esq., stated the object for which they had come to-

gether ; and upon his suggestion, Judge Crosby was called to the chair, and A. W. Buttrick appointed secretary.

Dr. J. O. Green stated, in a feeling manner, the time and cause of the death of Dr. Dalton, and his high appreciation of him as a beloved and skilful physician, a public-spirited citizen, a social and endeared companion and friend.

Charles Hovey, Esq., then offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted : —

" Whereas, it has come to our knowledge that our late fellow-citizen, Doctor John C. Dalton, has departed this life, and that his body is to-day to be brought to this city for interment, it is

" *Resolved*, That we declare our unaffected sorrow for the loss of a tried friend, an estimable citizen, and a beloved physician.

" *Resolved*, That our feelings demand some public expression of the high appreciation of his noble character, which an acquaintance of more than a quarter of a century has implanted within us.

" *Resolved*, That we will assemble at the railway station to meet his remains, and unobtrusively follow them to the cemetery.

" *Resolved*, That a request be made to the proper authority for the chiming of the bells, in which our late friend took so great an interest, and was so instrumental in procuring.

" *Resolved*, That the records of this meeting with the resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, and also to the Lowell papers for publication."

Hon. J. A. Knowles made some remarks expressive of the great loss to the community by the sudden departure of the deceased.

"*Voted*, To meet at the passenger-depot, Merrimack Street, at 1¼ o'clock, P. M., and join the funeral procession to the cemetery."

Lowell, January 27th, 1864.

The following preamble and resolutions were presented by Dr. Elisha Huntington, and unanimously adopted by the fellows of the Middlesex North District Medical Society, at the regular quarterly meeting : —

"Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God to remove from this world our friend and late fellow-member of the Middlesex North District Medical Society, John Call Dalton, M. D.; while humbly bowing to this dispensation of an all-wise Providence, it becomes us to give some public expression to the feelings that an event so unexpected and so sad is well designed to excite ; therefore,

"*Resolved*, (1.) That in the death of Dr. Dalton we mourn the loss of a remarkably intelligent and sagacious physician, a wise and judicious counsellor, a warm-hearted and genial friend, and a high-principled and Christian gentleman.

"(2.) That in our behalf, and in behalf of this community, where for so many years the deceased was known and loved, we desire to bear our testimony to his uniform kindness, to his unfailing charity, and to his active devotion to every good work.

"(3.) That in the zeal and devotion he has manifested in the present unhappy struggle for national unity, — in the dedication of his own sons to his beloved country, — in the sacrifice of time and money for the benefit of the suffering soldiers, — he has proved himself a true man and an enlightened patriot.

"(4.) That Dr. John O. Green be requested to deliver before the Middlesex North District Medical Society an address upon the life and character of Dr. Dalton, at such time as may suit his convenience.

"(5.) That a copy of these resolutions, duly signed by the President and Secretary, be forwarded to the family of the late Dr. Dalton, and that the same be published in the 'Boston Medical and Surgical Journal' and in the papers in this city."

JONATHAN BROWN, *President.*

GEO. H. WHITMORE, *Secretary.*

At the regular monthly meeting of the Suffolk District Medical Society, held on Saturday evening, January 30th, 1864, the following resolutions were passed: —

"*Resolved*, That the members of this Society have heard with profound regret the announcement of the death of Dr. John C. Dalton, one of its most honored and beloved members.

"That in Dr. Dalton's character the qualities which insure professional eminence and usefulness were admirably united to those which win universal respect and love.

"That through a long professional career he was distinguished not only by abilities of a high order, and the most thorough training in his art, but by the spirit of a high-minded and honorable Christian gentleman.

"That in his death the medical profession has lost one of its best members, the poor a kind and tender friend, society a man greatly beloved, and our country a patriot who knew no sacrifice too costly to make in her defence.

"That we offer our heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved family, with the hope that in this the hour of its great sorrow they may be borne up by Heaven's best consolations, and soothed by the pleasant memories that will ever cluster about his noble life and beautiful death."

D. H. STORER, *President.*

D. W. CHEEVER, *Secretary.*

Boston, June 10th, 1864.

At the annual meeting of the Councillors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the following resolutions were unanimously passed, and it was voted to send a copy to the family of the late Dr. Dalton: —

"*Resolved*, That in the long life of Dr. J. C. Dalton, the Massachusetts Medical Society, and the community, have enjoyed the companionship, the services, and the co-operation

of a gentleman of the strictest purity and integrity, of generous sympathies and unfaltering honor, of high literary and scientific attainments, and a physician of wisdom and extensive usefulness.

"*Resolved*, That in his death this Society has lost an honorable, devoted, learned, and beloved associate, whose high and unswerving principles, and deep and intelligent interest in the Profession and in humanity, have secured him the appreciative confidence of the community among whom he lived and labored, whose pure and amiable character won for him the love and respect of a wide circle of friends, and whose scientific acquirements, professional skill, and honorable bearing had gained for him the unfaltering and abiding esteem of society and of the Medical Profession to whom he was known.

"*Resolved*, That the Massachusetts Medical Society deeply sympathize with the family of Dr. Dalton, and offer their warm condolence in this their hour of trial, and the assurance that the memory of his beautiful and effective life will long remain in their hearts a monument of a respected and beloved associate."

C. D. HOMANS, *Recording Secretary,*
Massachusetts Medical Society.

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